



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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M/015/061

July 13, 1995

Brad T. Barber, RDCC
Utah State Clearinghouse
116 State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Re Comments on Tentative Approval, Western Clay Company, Last Chance Mine,
M/015/061, (BLM UTU-69862; RDCC UT950614-040), Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Barber:

The Division received your July 3, 1995 letter, commenting on the Western Clay Company Last Chance mine, located in Emery County, Utah. We also contacted Mr. Bill Bates by phone at the Southeastern Region Office, regarding your comments in the letter. A copy of your letter is being sent to the BLM San Rafael Resource Area and Western Clay Company. Listed below is our response to the five items raised in your letter.

- 1) *possible impacts to nesting raptors* - The Division has relayed this information to the BLM Resource Area to consider as part of their review of the Plan of Operations. A T&E plant survey has been performed by the BLM; however, we do not know if a T&E animal survey was also performed as part of their review. Mr. Bates indicated the main raptor concern for this project area would be for ferruginous hawks.
- 2) *erosion control measures around barren outcrop* - This comment was interpreted to apply to the site during mining operations only, and not as a part of final reclamation. No surface water exists in the vicinity of the mine area. All drainages within and surrounding the mine area are ephemeral in nature, which probably flow only as a result of heavy precipitation events. The bentonite soils are normally dry due to the local desert environment and will absorb a significant amount of precipitation before runoff is likely to occur. Signs of significant erosional problems have not been observed within the mine site area to date.
- 3) *adding ladak alfalfa to the seed mix* - We have forwarded this recommendation to the BLM for their consideration.

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4) *adding potassium fertilizer if the soil is potassium deficient* - We have forwarded this recommendation to the BLM for their consideration.

5) *treating the revegetated area with urea the first spring following revegetation* - We have forwarded this recommendation to the BLM for their consideration.

Thank you for your comments regarding this large mine operation tentative approval. If you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. We have scheduled approval of this large mine operation notice of intention to be considered at our next Board of Oil, Gas and Mining Briefing, on July 26, 1995.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Gallegos
Reclamation Engineer

jb

cc: Neal Mortensen, Western Clay Company (w/RDCC 7/3/95 letter)
Neil Simmons, BLM, San Rafael RA (w/RDCC 7/3/95 letter)
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